

Phosphorus

A common cause of lake and river pollution is phosphorus runoff. Phosphorus turns lakes and rivers green and stimulates the growth of algae in lakes and rivers. This crowds out other water plants and reduces oxygen available to fish. The result is unattractive, foul-smelling water that is bad for fish, wildlife, and humans.



The City of Grinnell and Imagine Grinnell have been working since 1999 to improve the water quality of Arbor Lake. They have worked to educate residents about their impacts on the Arbor Lake watershed and have developed a plan for construction of physical structures to help improve the water quality.

The city is wrapping up work on the improvements from the original plans. The next project is to develop a rain garden on the east side of Arbor Lake. These public investments have encouraged other projects to enhance the lake - establishment of the Hudson Memorial Prairie and the rebuilding of a walking bridge over Sweetwater Creek.



City of Grinnell

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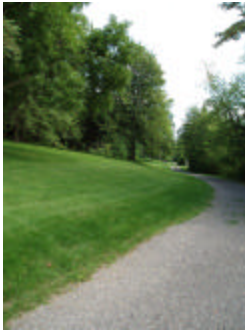
City of Grinnell



Protect Arbor Lake

Protect Arbor Lake

If you live in the Grinnell area, it is quite likely that anything entering your storm drain flows directly into Arbor Lake.



By following these five easy steps, you can help protect what flows into Arbor Lake.

1. Rake

Remove leaves, seeds, and grass clippings from the street and gutter.

Compost yard clippings on your own property or take them to the compost site.



2. Prevent Erosion

Prevent erosion by minimizing exposed soil surfaces on your property. Using mulch is a good way to cover exposed soil.

3. Fertilizing Your Lawn

Use a phosphorus free fertilizer. If you are unsure of your soil's nutrient needs, contact the Poweshiek County Extension Office in Montezuma @ 641-623-5188.

4. Sweep

Sweep spilled fertilizer and grass clippings off of driveways, sidewalks, and other paved surfaces.

5. Clean Up After Pets

Pet waste is a source of



phosphorus pollution, as well as harmful bacteria. Clean

up after your pets by picking up their waste and depositing it in the trash. Also, do not feed the geese as they also produce harmful waste.

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